

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD



COLPORTEURS OF THE FAR EAST

Doing pioneer work among the Tai, who spread over northern Siam and Indo-China, western Burma, and southern China

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BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

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Story of Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-five

Again the June issue of the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD is devoted to a condensed review of the last year of service in world-wide Bible circulation by the American Bible Society. This review is an abridgment of the Report of the Board of Managers, omitting reference to changes in the officers and to some of the special items and incidents of the year which were treated more fully at the time in the pages of the RECORD. Some of the details of the report on the activities of the Ways and Means Department and of the Treasurer's Department are also omitted. There will be found, however, this year, some fuller and different information from these last two departments in the pages which follow. Those interested in the important though somewhat prosaic details of the business side of our work will find them set forth more fully in the Report of the Board of Managers, which may be obtained on application to the Secretaries. The full "Annual Report" of the Society—a volume of 450 pages or so—will be issued in the fall as usual, and will include detailed reports of the Executive Officers, the Home and Foreign Agency Secretaries, and the correspondents. Here the story of the past year begins with the fundamental work of translation and revision.

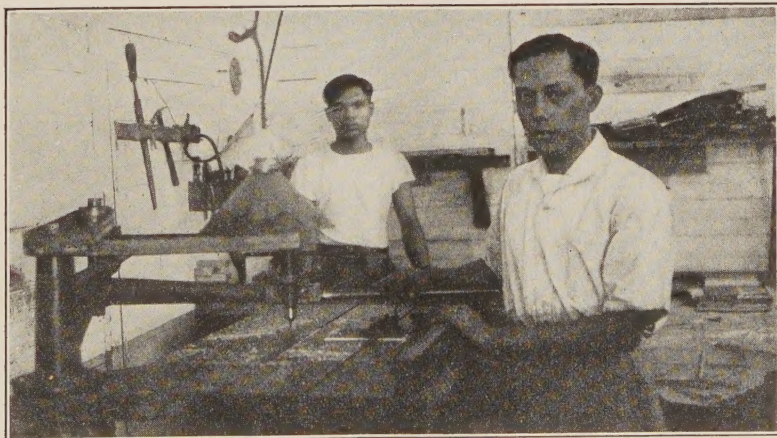
Translations and Revisions

SOME progress has been made during the year in the comparative study of variants in English versions, looking toward the production of new sets of plates for the bringing out of the English versions of the Society. The Society has no purpose of revising its English editions, but is making a careful study of usage in the English language. This is simply a continuation of the task referred to in the Board of Managers' Report a year ago.

vised New Testament has been under preparation, which is the work of the Rev. George R. Heath. The first edition of this New Testament was printed many years ago in Herrnhut on the presses of the Moravian Church. In Guatemala, progress has been made in the preparation of the Gospels in Cakchiquel being translated by Mr. Townsend; and also in Quiche by Mr. Burgess.

In South America, some further progress has been made in the Aymara in cooperation with

The temporary plate-making plant remade all of the 14,000 plates of Scriptures in various Filipino dialects which were lost through the Japan earthquake and fire in 1923.



The young Filipino in the foreground at "the router" is a high school graduate and ex-school-teacher who also handles the casting of the plates and the saw trimmer. The young man in the rear is a high school boy who also works in the bindery.

PLATEMAKING IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Gospel of Matthew has been issued from the press in Yiddish, and progress has been made in the translation into Yiddish of the Gospel of John. This work is an attempt to provide a Yiddish translation that shall be particularly acceptable to the people using that language in the United States.

For the Miskito Indians in Nicaragua a re-

Mr. McKinney. The plates of the Brazilian-Portuguese version were corrected during the year so as to include all the last findings of the translation committee.

In China, the reproduction of the Soochow Colloquial New Testament has proceeded slowly; and the typesetting and proofreading of the Revised Canton Colloquial New Testament has

been completed during the year. In these matters fellowship has been had with the other Bible Societies in China.

In the Philippines, correction and revision work has been carried on in Panayan, Cebuan, Samareño, Bicol, Tagalog, and Ilocano. This has all been occasioned by the making of new plates as a result of the destruction of all the Society's plates in the earthquake at Yokohama, September 1, 1923.

In African languages, additional manuscript has been received and progress made in the New Testament in Olunyore for certain tribes in Kenya Colony, and rapid advance has been made in the preparation of the Bulu New Testament, taking up all the previous translation work of the Society in this language, revising it and bringing it to completion. This should be ready in 1926, when it will be proper to make a full report. In Luba-Lulua,—a language spoken in a field in West Africa occupied by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States—a new translation of the New Testament and a revision of portions of the Old Testament, which were first published by the British and Foreign Bible Society, have been going forward.

Issues

In the number of volumes issued, the year 1925 has a record exceeding all its predecessors in the one hundred and ten years of the activity of the American Bible Society. For the first time the total has passed not only the eight-million mark, but the nine-million mark also. The great increase has been in the number of portions, for over eight of the nine million volumes issued in 1925 were portions, being the largest number ever issued by the Society. The total of whole Bibles issued in 1925 has been exceeded several times in the past, the highest being the issue of 499,000 in 1883; and the total number of Testaments has also been exceeded, the maximum having been reached in 1918, when over 2,400,000 Testaments were issued, chiefly for the soldiers and sailors of the United States engaged in the World War.

Nevertheless, to 1925 belongs the honor of the largest number of individual volumes of Scriptures ever issued by the Society. The presumption is fair that these went into the hands of the largest number of individuals ever receiving a single volume of the Scriptures from the American Bible Society in a year; and this is a direct accomplishment of the great evangelistic purpose of the Society.

Another stimulating thought comes from the fact that the bulk of the volumes issued last year were distributed in foreign lands; almost one million volumes issued in Japan, and over

four million in China! Surely in such facts there is ground for joy, in that the Word of God has reached so many in the Far East; and for petition, that the Word thus scattered shall not return void.

The issues in our Foreign Agencies were practically 2,000,000 more than the previous year; and those in the homeland were over 700,000 more than in 1924. The summary shows there were issued in 1925, 375,202 Bibles, 652,761 Testaments, and 8,186,460 portions, or a total of 9,214,423 volumes.

Issues of 110 Years

The total issues of the Society in the one hundred and ten (110) years of its service have been one hundred and seventy-four million, one hundred and twenty-one thousand, five hundred and ninety-nine (174,121,599) volumes.

Distribution

In the United States

First and foremost in the Society's work in the thought of the Board of Managers has been, as should be, the needs of the ever-increasing population of the United States. It would seem as though, after all these years, something like a supply of Scriptures for the individuals and homes of the United States might have been accomplished, and the Society could turn its primary attention to lands less blessed with churches, Christian institutions, Bible publishing establishments, etc., etc. A reading of the reports of the Auxiliary Societies and the Home Agencies, however, reveals a startling fact—the call for Scriptures in the United States is overwhelming. Not a single Agency Secretary out of the ten who during the past year have been engaged in this enterprise, sends in any word but an insistent cry for more Bibles, more Bibles, more Bibles—more Testaments, more Testaments, more Testaments—more Gospels, more Gospels, more Gospels. Altogether they circulated last year 220,830 Bibles, 250,929 Testaments, and 2,115,477 portions—a total of 2,587,236 volumes, as compared with 2,286,175 volumes of the preceding year. This does not include the state Auxiliary and other Auxiliary Bible Societies.

Among the colored people, sixty-five persons have been busy about this task in four sub-Agencies. They have visited the mountain sections and through the valleys. They have traveled on foot, by rail, and in their own Ford cars without extra expense to the Society. The miners, farmers, lumber-mills, towns and the cities have had their attention. One of these workers writes: "I have been caught far out in the woods many times without shelter, and have slept covered with my overcoat, with my pack

under my head as a pillow, in trying to minister to those without Scriptures."

A town marshal said to one of these workers, "If every man would get himself a Bible and read it, we would have a country of happy people, and no one would be afraid to travel."

Certain of the Agencies make a good deal of the visitation of county fairs. At one of these fairs, a gentleman came to the Bible stand and, with a smile on his face, said, "Don't you think you are wasting your time bringing Bibles here?"—"Why do you think so?" he was asked.—"Well," he answered, "they are not using the Bible any more in our church or Sunday school; and why should they want them at the fair?"—"Sit right here," said our worker, "and I will show you that the Bible is still the most attractive book on the fair grounds." Ten Bibles and Testaments and 1,465 penny Gospels were purchased right there in an hour.

In spite of the anthracite coal strike, a large circulation was carried on in the great cities and towns of the coal fields. Scriptures were circulated there in over fifty languages.

The new Agency in the capital of the United States has had a good year, and the Secretary starts with an ambition that some day a Bible House shall be built in the capital as an object lesson as to the place of the Bible in the national life.

All down along the Atlantic coast line and back into the mountains, workers have gone finding open doors, the people receiving them kindly and appreciating the work of the Society. Homes have been visited in which the people say they have not seen a minister for years. They are sorely in need of religious influences.

One of our colporteurs, over seventy-four years of age, is as enthusiastic over his work as a young man just starting out. He has traveled 65,000 miles, and visited 185,000 homes, and distributed over 110,000 volumes of Scriptures in the mountains of West Virginia.

From a prison came a letter from a blind man, who writes, "I have been confined for three years, and I want to say that I have learned my lesson. I am starting out to live a better life and to do the right thing. I don't know how you feel toward a man in prison; but, if there is any chance in the world for me, I want you to send me some of the Bible in

Point Print. I was born blind, and have only an adopted mother to do anything for me; and she is seventy-two years old and lives in an old ladies' home." You may be sure he received his Bible.

Out in the great central states of the United States, in addition to city life, there are the needs of the small town, the sawmill town, the cotton-mill town, the foundry and steel mill population, the countryside and the remote mountain cabin. Orphanages and hospitals are not neglected. The jails and prisons appeal to some of our workers. In these five states of the Central Agency, there are about ten or fifteen thousand men and women, boys and girls, behind the prison bars. Workers visit them, and there is an unusual demand for the Scriptures, and Bible Classes are started.



BOYS AND GIRLS FROM THE CHILDREN'S HOME, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, ABOUT TO START FOR HOMES THAT HAVE BEEN OPENED FOR THEM

Each child, on leaving, is given a Bible supplied by the Central Agency of the American Bible Society.



The famous "Scopes trial" in Tennessee seems to have produced no adverse effect on Bible distribution in the regions where it was held, which has continued steadily.

In the great territory centering in Chicago, a sense of unusual bereavement came in the death of Dr. Kirkbride, who for sixteen years had been active in, and consecrated to, his work. The Rev. Dr. McLaughlin, who had given even more years to this work in the Philippines and at home, was willing to take up the mantle of Dr. Kirkbride, and the work has gone forward, reaching out into the ranges of northern Minnesota and the "cut-over country," as well as in the great cities. Sometimes it seems that only a beginning has been made when one thinks of the need.

In the vast Southwest of the nation, among the Spanish-speaking people, the French-speaking people, the groups of Mexicans that come over the border, the Indians, the new settlers and the old communities, a great work has been

carried on. The Secretary writes, "Oh, that we had the means to send Bible workers to every dark corner, to every Bibleless home in all this great Southwest."

In the Rocky Mountain states and all the way down to the border come requests for Scriptures. To our representative in charge it seems as if some great force or combination of forces is at work making people feel their need of the Scriptures; while, through the growing number of our friends and other channels of publicity, the Society is becoming recognized as the source of their supply. Soldiers are asking for Bibles. Churches are canvassing their towns. The newspapers are helping. One state legislature passed a law requiring every public schoolroom in the state to be supplied with a copy of the Bible. And everywhere the Scriptures have been doing their work.

One of our workers set his suitcase down, and somebody lifted it and thought it was so heavy that he went out and secured an officer to have him arrested for bootlegging. What

dies: "Had we more books, we would have been able easily to distribute double the quantity."

West Indies

A special effort has been made in the West Indies to find out what the upper classes think of the Bible, and what is their opinion of the "Biblical propaganda," and to let them know the work the American Bible Society is doing among the Latin-American peoples. To attain this end, the Secretary visited Masonic lodges, educational centers, commercial and recreational clubs and political organizations, and prominent people connected with the university and government. More than half of the lodges secured Bibles for their temples, and two-thirds of them agreed that the distribution of the Bible strengthened the feeling of liberty in Spanish America. The majority of the teachers in more than half of the educational centers admitted the usefulness of the Bible; while a few stated they considered it very harmful to what they called the "true emancipation of conscience." Of thirty-two commercial and sport clubs, seven-



BIBLE SUNDAY
OBSERVANCE IN
THE WEST IN-
DIES

The Sunday school of
the Friends Church,
Holguin, Cuba.

was his astonishment, when the suitcase was opened, to find it full of Bibles; and the people that gathered around all bought Bibles, including the one who had started the trouble.

Along the Pacific coast and radiating way out into the Pacific by wireless as well as by service in Hawaii, the Scriptures are broadcast daily and distributed by tens of thousands; and free grants have been made to Indians, the poor, almshouses, old people's homes, prisons and county jails, children's homes, etc.

The doors are open. As never before goes the message to the Protestants, the Jews, the Roman Catholics and the nonchurched, and we need our own workers to reach untouched sections and homes.

In Latin America

Latin America has characteristics of its own which are more or less common in all the six Agencies which cover the islands of the Caribbean, Mexico, and the nations of Central and South America. From every section comes a statement similar to this from the West In-

teen bought Bibles for their libraries, and their members thought it desirable that the Bibles should be circulated and taught. The political clubs all believed that Bible teaching was beneficial, but only on the condition that it was not used with the "intention of assisting foreigners to get commercial power or political power."

The President of Cuba received with pleasure the gift of a Bible and said that "the work of the 'Bible men' was assisting civilization." The President of the Dominican Republic also accepted a gift of a Bible with "thanks" and the testimony of "my highest esteem for the edifying work which the American Bible Society is doing."

In the Virgin Islands our workers say "the country folk are very religious and willingly listen to Christ's message. The old Danish population in these islands know the value of the Bible."

In Haiti a special desire seems to be "an inexpensive French Bible in large type; the folk cannot read the small type." A worker there writes: "I usually have to sell our books at a

very reduced price and often have to give them gratis, as the people want the books, even if they cannot pay for them." Another writes: "During the many years I have been in Haiti, I have never seen such an awakening of the people's conscience as at the present moment."

Throughout the West Indies 138 conferences or conventions were held dealing with the influence of the Bible and the work of the Bible Society.

Mexico

In Mexico a new plan for systematic cooperation has been started from Sr. Marroquin's study of a map of Mexico which shows the division of the territory between the different mission boards. Under his inspiration arrangements were made with each of these mission groups in their several fields to help support colportage, the Society furnishing the books under a carefully worked out program. This



A COLPORTEUR READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES TO INDIANS OF ECUADOR

has interested a very large number of workers and quickened the whole program.

The Mexican churches love to celebrate Bible Day and make generous offerings, a large part of which they desire to have used in foreign lands. One church writes: "Enclosed please find money order for 15 pesos. We are sorry it was a little less than last year, but the program was most inspiring." Another Sunday school sent 15 pesos, and by unanimous vote it was decided to ask the Agency, if possible, to have this amount used to supply Bibles for the blind.

Caribbean Agency

In Central America it is a pleasure to record the cooperation and help of the United Fruit Company, which gave one of our workers a free pass over their several hundred miles of railroad and permission to sell Bibles from the regular pay car.

A special effort is being made to reach the thousands of Americans going into these re-

publics for business purposes. This creates a real problem. The native Indians, in many instances, seem to be more accessible. The Rev. Mr. Jordan, the Secretary of the Upper Andes Agency, has prepared a special volume, which has recently been published, on these Central American Indians.

One of our correspondents in Colombia related an interesting conversation with one of the customs officials, a friend of many years' standing. As the official was handing over a shipment of Bibles, he remarked in a good-natured way, "It is a shame that I have to sign papers that will release this poison to my people." Our friend replied, "But think of the many shipments of liquor that have been released by your signature." The officer continued, "Yes; but that only hurts the body." Nevertheless, Colombia and the other republics are beginning to recognize that there is a difference

between the Bible and other things; that the Bible is not a "poison," but a good medicine for the soul. The increased circulation over that of other years is convincing proof of this.

Venezuela as well as Colombia have their contacts now directly with the Bible House in Cristobal, instead of being sub-Agencies.

Upper Andes

In the Upper Andes, Ecuador was visited in the latter part of the year, and evidences were manifest

that the walls of prejudice and indifference are beginning to crumble, and the first Ecuadorian Indian converts already have been baptized.

A missionary in charge at Guayaquil began distributing Bibles twenty-nine years ago, while he was learning the language, and he has kept on ever since. Now his own labors are multiplied in the activities of the members of the church he has founded. Many of these members give spare time to Bible distribution.

"A plumber, who owns his own shop and has several men working for him, occasionally leaves the business in the hands of his wife while he takes a trip through the country in company with another member of the church, selling Bibles and holding services in the houses of those who are willing to receive them. He said: 'It is a great privilege to be able to go out in this way and give all my time to the work of the Lord. From the time we leave until we return, we are busy from morning to night talk-

ing to people about the gospel. We have nothing else to occupy our minds.'"

Representatives of the Society visited the valley of the Upper Magdalena in southern Colombia. Ten years ago two workers journeyed through this valley, distributing Bibles. Ever since that time the needs of this region have been a burden upon the heart of one of them, and his mind has ever returned to it with a longing desire to help relieve the spiritual famine there existing. This year his desire was fulfilled. With two colporteurs he visited thirty-two towns in a three months' journey. They did not meet any other Christian worker. The results of the visit of ten years ago were seen in some lives; but they write: "We were made to feel that, in a large measure, the fruit had been lost because no one had ever returned to gather it. Now, as we look into the future and think of these thirty-two towns and the large country region which they represent, we cannot but wonder whether the church of God will wait another ten years before a new effort shall be made to give them the gospel."*

La Plata

Two great Agencies cover all the rest of South America.

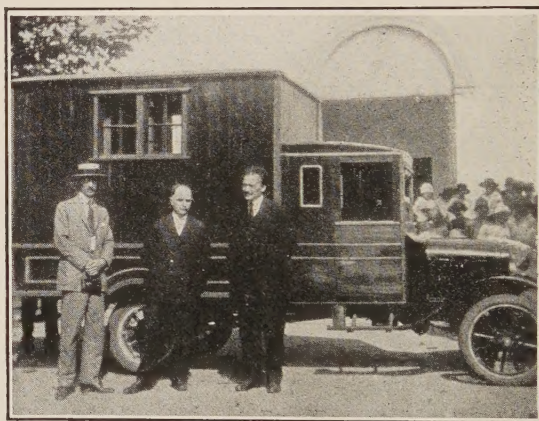
In the La Plata Agency a great conference of Christian workers from all over South America was held in Montevideo at the Pocitos Hotel, as reported in the September, 1925, RECORD.

During this last year the Rev. F. G. Penzotti passed to his reward. To the last, although weak, he visited the office regularly and often led the little meetings with the colporteurs. He also visited the churches daily, and used to preach five and six times a week. His life is a benediction to all Central and South Americas.

Uruguay celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of her independence on the 25th of August, 1925. For that occasion, 50,000 Gospels and Acts with the Uruguayan flag on the cover had been prepared and distributed all over the country. The Waldensian churches in Uruguay made gifts to prepare a Bible coach, which will be ready for service during 1926. New colonists are coming in large numbers to this field. Germany is sending her sons and establishing colonies in the cotton-growing section. Among them are many Christian people, and all the German Scriptures in the Agency were distributed among these new immigrants. Russia is also sending her immigrants in large numbers, and we have a great many calls for Bibles in their language.

Here, as everywhere, the same fruit is gath-

ered. Our Secretary writes: "One day, while I was alone at the Bible depository, a young woman, who seemed to be in great trouble, came to me and said, 'I want you to sell me a book that will speak to my soul. I do not want a novel; I have had enough of them. I am in trouble. I want a book that will comfort me in my distress. I understand that you have such a book.' I immediately handed her a Bible, picked out some special portions for her to read, and made her a present of the book. I took her name and address, intending to visit her and try to help her. Some while later I did so, and, on reaching the place, found her reading the book, greatly helped. The Book had led her to Christ. She had thought seriously of taking her life on



THE FRANCIS G. PENZOTTI BIBLE COACH

Presented to the La Plata Agency by the Waldensian churches in Uruguay, of one of which Mr. Penzotti was pastor before he began his long and notable service with the American Bible Society.

The Rev. J. P. Howard, at the left, accompanied the Rev. Paul Penzotti in the first trip made by the coach when all the contributing Waldensian churches were visited. The Rev. A. Richter and the Rev. Ernest Tron are the two others in the foreground.

account of failure in business; but she is now safe, having found through the Bible her Saviour." And in another place he reports: "A splendid automobile stopped in front of the Bible depository one day, and a distinguished elderly man stepped out of it and came into the office, and asked for the most expensive Bible we had. He said: 'I am wealthy; I have all that money can afford to give man; but this is the greatest treasure in my house.' He is a native Argentinian, over eighty years of age, and heard the gospel preached many years ago."

Brazil

In the great Republic of Brazil there are five colporteurs' districts, covering a population of 14,000,000. This shows the inadequacy of the provision to reach the people by colporteurs. At least seven men should be employed, in order

*The American Bible Society should have an income from five to ten times its present income, that it may thoroughly evangelize these and similar regions.

to make anything like a real canvass of the territory once in a period of, say, five years. There then remains in the great region of the Amazon Valley the two states of Para and Amazonas and the Acre territory; and besides these there are the two far interior states to the west—Goyaz and Matto Grosso. These have to be reached through correspondents.

One of the correspondents, writing from quite a distance, says: "A man gave to his brother one of your 3-milreis Figueiredo Bibles. After reading certain parts of it, he said to his brother, 'I cannot accept your word as to this book; but you have left me in a great doubt. I must settle it.' He wrote to the bishop in Guaxupe, asking where he could get a true Roman Catholic Bible. The bishop took two months to answer the letter. The farmer, tired of waiting, sent to Rio and for 144 milreis, or \$20, got one of the two-volume Figueiredo Bibles of the authorized edition that you know [the Roman Catholic edition], and when it came he made the comparison. His doubt was settled, and he and his whole family, eleven people, are coming into our church. He told me, to settle his doubts, he had to pay 144 milreis, but it was worth it."

The Near East and the Far East

The world will never quiet down until the people in it give their hearts to the Prince of Peace. Political readjustments and organization may accomplish something. Vast commercial programs may have their value. Improvement in social conditions will help. General intelligence will help. But none of these influences nor all of them together will bring rest into the heart of man until, as St. Augustine says, he finds rest in God.

Scripture distribution goes on in these troubled lands, and is helping to bring people to a knowledge of Him who says, "Peace I leave with you."

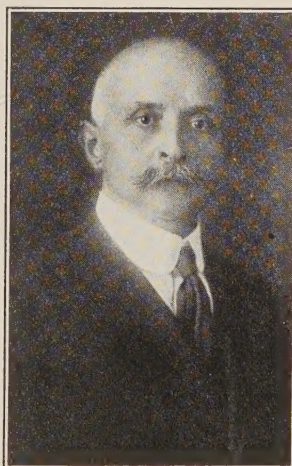
Levant Agency

From the regions centering in Constantinople, the oldest of the foreign fields of the Society, comes an encouraging word. Mr. Lyman MacCallum, in charge of affairs under the supervision of Dr. Boyd, writes: "Ninety years of such service as the Society has given in these troubled waters begets a feeling not of indifference to storms, but of confidence that they will safely pass. Could there be worse trials than those which, by God's grace, this Agency has already survived? On this score the future can be faced with assurance. Constantinople is more than merely 'the spot where Asia and Europe stare at each other so dramatically.' It is the frontier of Christendom, and a meeting

place for all the world. At such crossroads as this the Bible Society can never cease from proclaiming the love of the crucified Christ.

Turkey—"Save in the city of Constantinople, there remain almost no native Christians within the confines of Turkey. Propaganda is regarded as one of the more serious crimes. The curriculum of schools is very closely regulated, and religious instruction or Bible study, even in mission schools, is not tolerated. These facts have each an adverse influence on the work of the Bible Society in Turkey.

"These discouragements are not as important as they look. There is a new spirit of hope in Turkey. It is no longer the Christian religion alone which is singled out for restriction. The rending apart of church and state is a dangerous but necessary preliminary to religious freedom. Intense efforts are being made to di-



MR. S. T. CASSAPI

For a score of years the faithful and efficient clerk of the Levant Agency. He is a graduate of Robert College, and one of the splendid products of American education in the Near East. During the war he was in charge of the office in Constantinople, and is now at Beirut, watching the details of printing, binding and shipping, and keeping the accounts of both the Levant and Arabic-Levant Agencies.

rect allegiance away from the religious systems, both Christian and Mohammedan, and attach it to the state,—the great Republic of Turkey. Hence, the modern Turk need no longer suffer twinges of disloyalty in opening a Bible. It is the high mission of the Levant Agency to find means of placing the Book in these unsatisfied hands. The innovations such as the discarding of turbans by men and veils by women, the removal of lattices from windows, the adoption of the Western mode of reckoning time and of the Western or Gregorian calendar,—all these are making the Mohammedan and Christian peoples outwardly alike. By these means God is opening the way for his Word in Turkey."

Bulgaria and Greece—In Bulgaria and those portions of Greece cared for by the Society, in spite of difficulties, the work has advanced. Bulgaria has been torn to pieces by political upheavals, bombs destroying the cathedral at Sofia, etc.; but the doors are open. The Jewish teachers in Sofia and some other towns have

more than ever before encouraged the use of the Bible by the students. More Hebrew Scriptures were sold in Bulgaria during the past year than ever before. Prisons have been supplied with the Scriptures. One of the prisoners told the Society's representative: "Now, I understand why I am here: to find my Saviour, Jesus Christ. Outside I could not have found him. Now I know I am forgiven, and I have no fear of death." To all waiting for execution we have given a Bible.

We are happy that, through the efforts of our Secretary and others, the ban on the Modern Greek New Testaments has been lifted by the Greek authorities and they are admitted now, where they were held previously, at the customs.

The Near East orphanages have been given boxes of Bibles. "In one such the teacher received from the boys two piasters, equal to about two cents, not in payment of the Bibles given to them, but for the collection of a sum to be used for future purchases of Scriptures. One of the boys, eleven years of age, gave four piasters, which he had been keeping for a long time, saying that he wanted two Bibles, one for himself and one for boys who had not two piasters to pay. He would give them the Bible to read it by turns. What a good example this little boy is giving to all of us!"

Arabic-Levant Agency

Dr. Boyd has had a most satisfactory year in that great field in which the Arabic language is the principal language of the people. In order to catch up with depleted stocks, his publication reports for 1924 and 1925 are far in advance of the general average. In 1924, 160,312 volumes, in 1925, 135,045 volumes, were produced, chiefly at the Presbyterian Press in Beirut. The ordinary average is about 50,000 a year.

Egypt—"The circulation in Egypt and the Sudan shows an advance of 30 per cent. The colporteurs at work have not been increased in number very much, but they have been more filled with zeal and a desire each to do better than his previous record and to rival his brothers. The whole field has been covered. As a result of this added energy, 320 more villages were included on the list of 1925, than on the list of 1924, and an advance of between four and five thousand miles is reported in travel by practically the same workers. It is interesting to record the way in which Bible distribution is taken up by families, so to speak. One of the best of the workers is a son of a veteran in the service of the Society. This young man reported over 9,000 copies sold last year. Stress is laid on reaching the needy, not simply the sale of Bibles and Testaments to the well-to-

do, but to see that as many individuals as possible receive at least a single book of God's Word, not only because in even a single book may be found the Saviour and the way of eternal life, but also because the buyer of a portion this year becomes a buyer of a Testament or Bible next year."

An increase is also reported in the gifts of the native Christian churches. Interestingly enough, the Scriptures have been circulated in more languages than previously: in 1924, 27 languages and one script for the blind; in 1925, 37 languages and two systems for the blind. "The cosmopolitan character of the population of Cairo and Alexandria, of Beirut and Jerusalem, together with the presence of seats of learning, attracting students from far and wide, accounts for this great variety."

One of our workers reports that he found the Moslems remarkably ready this past year to buy Scriptures; and some of them have even helped him, buying extra copies for free gifts to their friends.

Syria—There are troubles and difficulties in the south of Syria, in the field of strife between the French and the Druses. The town where one of our colporteurs lives was sacked, and all his stock of Scriptures as well as his other possessions were lost; and his family fled with the other inhabitants.

Arabia—In Arabia, progress goes forward. A correspondent writes: "It is not difficult to give portions away, but the people are slow to spend money for Christian literature."

The Philippines

Mr. Cameron, of the Philippines, sends his last report for his first five years of service. He says: "Conditions are approaching normal. The earthquake losses so thoroughly upset our stock of supplies, that we have not even yet succeeded in replenishing everything." Under all these circumstances a good circulation has been effected. In spite of twenty-five years of education, the Filipinos have not yet acquired the love of good books, such as is everywhere present in Japan. The movie people, we are told, estimate that "only a third of the population can appreciate depth of expression, the other two-thirds being yet in the 'blackboard' stage of understanding, because they are not readers." A third of the circulation is effected through missionaries and other workers; the other two-thirds by shops and colporteurs. "No substitute for house-to-house canvassing has ever been found for introducing the Scriptures." The colportage system is expensive; but it is the most effective form of missionary distribution of the Scriptures. Two American colporteurs with helpers are covering large

areas through the use of motor trucks, etc. One is most desirous of a motor launch, which would be of invaluable service to him. If some friend would make a present of such a launch, costing about \$1,500, it would be a peculiarly valuable gift.

It is most interesting to note that, while a growing extensive use of the English language is pervading the islands, there is also an increasing growth of literacy in the dialects, and an increase in the desire for Scriptures in the dialects. The earthquake destroyed dialect Scriptures. The people have been for two or three years without them. The new supply has shown that the circulation has been tremendous compared with what it was before, revealing the fact that in these years there has been accumulating a constant demand for the dialect Bible.

Siam

In Siam, the Secretary has his heart on the Tai people. In spite of systematic circulation and visitation by colporteurs under the supervision of missionaries or sent out directly from headquarters, there are still great stretches of territory which have never received the Scriptures. Just what this visitation means is covered in an incident or two. "Three groups were sent into the Metha Valley; ten persons took stand publicly as Christians during the campaign. We are spending some time in Bible study with the men, and they like it very much. The men need our constant prayers. They really do it very well. Their task is by no means an easy one." Another missionary superintendent of colporteurs writes: "Every morning the four colporteurs come over to my study for Bible study and prayer. Then they go out for the day." Another writes: "I am sorry there are so little sales; but the men worked hard. They visited the jungle villages in a district not visited before. The people are living in famine conditions, and it was not possible to sell to them." Where they cannot sell, they give away; and this far-reaching service is in some respects the best service the Society is giving to the world. "The life of a colporteur," as one writes, "is extremely hard, and it is not strange that many of them drop out and disappoint us. It would seem to be good evidence of a consciousness of a divine call to the task, that so many with so little material advantage persist."

One colporteur writes: "I set out along the villages, but no one would receive me. I begged to buy food, but no one would sell. 'Nothing left,' they said. 'The morning's cooking is just enough for the morning; evenings, the same.' I was faint from hunger;

but the strength of a young man is sufficient to travel on for two or three days."

English Bibles have been placed in hotels in Bangkok, and the Agency is purposing to supply with the Scriptures not only the English hotels, but the Siamese, Indian, Japanese, Chinese, and others.

China

China tells the story of the fiftieth year of the Society's Agency. The direct issues of the China Agency for the fifty years were 42,821,933; those for 1925, 4,033,196. This last is a wonderful record. In spite of the incessant warfare, the desire of the people for

the Scriptures is greater than ever. There has been a noticeable decrease in the call for whole Bibles, which comes about in part by the confusion in the schools and colleges and universities. This has released funds for the extensive use of portions, which in turn creates a demand for whole Scriptures. "Apparently the majority of Chinese are not personally



GENERAL CHANG CHIH-KIANG
Who purchased, with \$5,700 cash, 2,000 Bibles and 6,000 Testaments for distribution among the officers and men of his army. (See also April, 1926, "Bible Society Record.")

vitality interested in the world-stirring events that have been taking place."

One of the interesting and encouraging incidents of the year has been the way in which earnest Chinese Christians have shown their determination to give the gospel message to their friends. A startling illustration is the order of General Chang Chih-kiang for 6,000 New Testaments and 2,000 Bibles,—which the Secretary says is the biggest single order ever placed with the China Agency.

The illustrated incidents of the effect of the distribution of the Scriptures on the hearts of men are almost innumerable. China is full of secret disciples in addition to the many who are confessed followers of Christ. During the height of the tension in Hankow, Chinese came

to the depot for twenty cases of portions to be sold in the city; the booksellers used the anti-Christian agitation as a reason why the people should buy the portions and learn what the Christians taught.

Japan

In Japan, another remarkable year of service has been completed. Nearly a million copies of the Scriptures were circulated, where two or three thousand used to be considered a fine seed-sowing. The prisons were revisited, some years having gone by since New Testaments had been donated sufficient for every inmate. The head of the bureau of Justice was approached. He was pleased with what we proposed, and of his own accord said he would send letters to the governors of the prisons advising them to accept our offer. "We know he did so," the Secretary writes, "for, in replies received to letters sent out from the Bible House, many governors said they had heard about this matter from him. All the replies received were most courteous and appreciative. Eighteen regular prisons and three prisons for juveniles accepted. Some of them even asked for enough to provide also each officer with a Testament. "One of these governors wrote: 'I am confident these books will create and nourish faith in the convicts for their own good, and aid them in the keeping of law and order—by which our Empire will derive no little benefit.'"

A group of colporteurs made a systematic visitation of the Hokkaido and Saghalien Islands. The story of their visit to these sections of the Empire is unusual. Gospel services and Scripture distribution were held at all of the forty railway stations on the island of Saghalien. They were doubtful, as they were crossing over the channel, as to what success they would have. They had taken 18,000 portions with them, for six colporteurs to use in house-to-house work. They had a tremendous success, and had to stop because they had run out of all their Scriptures. All classes of the people were interested. The worker who was most successful of all was Mrs. Suzuki, a woman of great faith and spiritual eloquence. In one large sewing-school the principal allowed her to speak. All the girls became eager to learn more about the living Saviour, and she sold 2,100 portions in that school. The following day two of the girls came to her lodging place and earnestly sought to obtain the "faith that saves." "It was a great joy for our worker," writes our Secretary, "to lead them to Christ and commit them to the pastoral care of the Episcopal church in the town."

In Other Lands

There are parts of the world not covered by our regular Foreign Agencies. These are chiefly in Europe, but also in Asia, Africa, and the Islands of the Sea, where we make grants of funds or books to help forward the missionary distribution of the Scriptures.

Norway—We have received the following word from Norway:—"The Bibles that were sent to our district in this north have been distributed in East and West Finmark, in Senjen, Vesteraalen, Lofoten, and partly in Ofoten. The brethren that have taken care of the distribution report that these Bibles and Testaments have been and will hereafter be of peculiar blessing to those who have got a copy. Prayers to God have been made with poor people that could not afford to buy a Bible, but, when they received a copy, they were radiant with joy and thankfulness, and we have sufficient proofs that the Bibles have been read. In some places we have met with believers that had no Bible, and they have received the Bible with some of the fervent joy that thrilled Jeremiah, the prophet, when he found the bookroll, and the contents of it were a delight to him and a joy to his heart."

Sweden—From Sweden comes the word:—"We thank you most heartily for the gifts we already received for distribution of Bible literature, and hope that next year you will send us help from the Bible Society." Seven hundred and forty volumes of the Scriptures were circulated in the Swedish Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Denmark—From Denmark we have a word asking for continued cooperation in the blessed work of distributing the Holy Scriptures. The slight distribution in which we cooperate is a supplement to the work of the National Bible Society.

Germany—In Germany our correspondent writes: "There is a great interest for Bibles among our people. Our people have grown very poor, and want of employment is general. We beg you to help us this year to spread Bibles among our people."

Belgium—Mr. Ralph C. Norton, of La Mission Belge Evangélique, Brussels, Belgium, writes: "We have before us the report of Scripture distribution throughout the year 1925, and you will be interested to know that some 1,384 Bibles, 12,264 Testaments, and 83,303 Gospels and Epistles were distributed, besides over 400,000 tracts. In addition to this, there were thousands of cards and texts and other portions distributed. This is sure to bear fruit sooner or later. Our hearts are made to rejoice at all the gracious things God has done

in the past year; but we are looking to him for still greater things for 1926, and 'He is able.' The American Bible Society is not responsible for all of this circulation, but it is happy to have assisted.

France—From the Bible Society of France we have received this interesting word: "During the year 1925, the Bible Society of France set aside as usual the sum of \$1,500 which you are good enough to place at our disposal annually toward the distribution of Marriage Bibles or New Testaments and toward the distribution also of New Testaments for catechumens in the poorer churches. It is intended that the offerings taken in the church during a marriage ceremony or confirmation service will cover our expenses at least in part. But, practically, it does not so work out. We feel the need to respond, for example, to letters like the following from a pastor in the north of France, the Rev. Faure, of Calais, when he said to us: 'I officiated at the marriage of two converts, and I wanted so much to have a New Testament for them to seal their alliance in Jesus Christ; but they were two poor working people, and there was no money to send you for it.' And can we remain indifferent to such an appeal as that of a pastor in a little village in the Cevennes (the Rev. Mr. Gerbeau, of Breau, Gard), who wrote us asking for six New Testaments for catechumens, adding: 'My church is a poor little mountain church carrying a heavy burden. So I do not promise to send you the money that I used to send when I had the church in Poitou; but I hope you will respond favorably to my request.'"

The Protestant Bible Society of Paris refers to the death of Mr. Roberty, its president, and gives the following interesting word concerning its year's work:

"The Family Bible which we began to circulate last June has been accorded favor, surpassing our expectations—3,000 copies having already been disposed of. And the rapid disposal of this edition has not at all affected the others. In October alone we circulated, without counting the New Testaments and portions, 319 complete Bibles, besides 854 of the Family Bibles. A distribution of 1,173 Bibles in one month,—that is a record figure that we have without doubt never before attained since the Society was founded."

Switzerland—From Switzerland Dr. Keller writes that the larger part of our last gift for Bibles to the students has been distributed proportionately among most of the theological faculties of Europe. He also writes that the distribution of the Greek New Testaments and Hebrew Old Testaments have reached an even larger circle of theological faculties all over

Europe, than was accomplished a year ago. He says: "A great many of our students are still today in so destitute a condition, that it would be extremely helpful if the American Bible Society could continue such grants for some years."

From the Evangelical Society of Geneva, with which we are cooperating, we have a word showing a circulation of 54,840 volumes in French, Italian, Polish, and Spanish. It has a staff of 75 colporteurs either permanently or occasionally engaged. The following incidents illustrate the value of their work: "We are going to give you material evidence as to their efficiency, by speaking of the successes and encouragements afforded to these faithful fellow-workers. Numerous are the causes of cheer to them. Headmost there is the welcome bestowed by some upon them and their books. In many instances the reception, at first distrustful and chilly, quickly becomes eager and friendly after a few moments' talk. S—— found very hearty welcome in an out-and-out Catholic ambient. Says he: 'Yes, I had the pleasing surprise of selling the Roman church vicar a Bible with Concordance, a French and a Spanish Gospel. After that, we prayed together. Having, in truly evangelical manner, conversed on the Lord and the church, we parted very good friends.' 'You are doing splendid work,' said another curate; and he bought Gospels.

"Another colporteur hails at his bench a joiner, an elderly man, who amicably receives him with open arms: 'I am a Roman Catholic, but let us shake hands,—we are brethren.' Then to the Bible he bears the following testimony: 'About fifteen years ago, I found on a rubbish heap a Bible which had been thrown away. I took it home with me; then I read it, yea, and read it all over many times more, with growing and steadily renewed interest. I found there peace; I found there strength and consolation; I also found there light, and I came to understand the ways of God in regard to me.'"

Czechoslovakia—From Czechoslovakia, the Rev. J. S. Porter writes: "I am alone here in the field, and I do get the blues sometimes. But God puts his loving arms around me in a wonderfully gentle and powerful way, and stays me up. To him be all the glory." He sends also the following word: "I herewith hand you the report for 1925. I was in America for six months, and hence my report may be less full than usually. I had, as you know, the very hard duty of discharging one good colporteur because of lack of funds. I do hope I shall never have to go through with that again. There have been cir-

culated in all by all the colporteurs of all the Societies, and from the depository here and by the gifts from the Scripture Gift Mission, London, not far from 50,000 copies of the Scriptures here in the Republic. We rejoice in that. The colporteur paid out of the funds coming to the mission from the American Bible Society is perhaps the one who does the most evangelistic work along with his selling of Scriptures. He is alive to the opportunities presented. He writes: "I went among teachers in one school building. One remarked: 'Man is descended from a monkey.'" "Then you are a very undutiful son," I remarked. "You never go to see your monkey mother there in the park. And you smoke. The monkey mother does not do that." He, finally, and three others bought Bibles.

Italy—In Italy word from the Waldensians shows an improvement in circulation. Our correspondent writes: "It may interest you to hear this year of an indirect fruit of our constant efforts to spread the Word of God among our countrymen. On the 4th of September last, there was held, by a group of young Roman Catholics, a 'congress for the Gospel' at Bologna, attended by many prelates, delegates from Catholic societies in the universities, and from other Catholic associations, together with representatives of diocesan committees, newspapers, etc., and the Cardinal Archbishop of Bologna was also present. Some of the resolutions passed by the congress were as follows: (1) That the Book of the Gospels be placed in the pulpit of the churches, as the special source of Christian preaching; (2) That the Gospel of the day be read in Italian at every Sunday mass; (3) That the Gospel be introduced into every house and there kept in a place of honor as a sacred object; (4) That this book be committed to the hands of his people by the priest in his church."

From the Methodist Conference in Italy we received word "that the centers of greatest expansion are the Abruzzi and Pozzuoli. Open air meetings are held in the country in summer, and in winter in the kitchen of the house of some brother. After the explanation of the Gospel, there is always some one desirous of having the Holy Scriptures, which are then given or sold as the case may be."

India—From India, Bishop Fisher, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, writes: "The lovely New Testaments for distribution through our schools have arrived through the British and Foreign Bible Society, and we are grateful to the American Bible Society for this gift." This is agreeable work of cooperation with the British Society, which supplies the books paid for by our donation.

The Rev. H. J. Scudder, of the Arcot Mission, writes: "I find many of our Christians do not own their own Bibles and Testaments, and, if funds allow, I propose launching a campaign to induce all literate Christians to possess their own Bibles, or at least the New Testament and Psalms." From the Madura Mission comes an account of a circulation of 7,454 volumes. The correspondent writes: "Nothing is better for the people than the Word of God."

In the American Ceylon Mission children studying in the boarding schools were supplied with Scriptures and taught regularly and systematically. The treasurer writes: "Your gift was greatly appreciated and was used effectively."

From the South Seas, Elizabeth Baldwin writes: "I am afraid that the price that we charge for our Mortlock Scriptures will not cover the entire cost, but I do not know how to charge the people any more at this time, owing to their poverty from the seven years' blasting and famine through which they have been passing." She was given the privilege of fixing any price that would be suitable to the condition of the islanders. A similar arrangement was made with the missionaries in the Gilbert Islands and in other regions in Micronesia.

Workers

Our Home and Foreign Agencies and foreign correspondents report a total of colporteurs, correspondents and voluntary workers of 3,582, being the largest number so recorded in our history. There were 376 colporteurs, 2,214 correspondents, and 992 voluntary workers. It is not easy to draw the line between correspondents and volunteers, and the work rendered by both groups is often as large and important as that rendered by the colporteurs. The totals in each case exceed those of the previous year—there being 794 who helped to circulate our Scriptures in the United States, 2,704 in our Foreign Agencies, and 84 under foreign correspondents. The 22 Agency Secretaries and the score and more of missionaries and secretaries of other societies who act as our "representatives" in other lands are not themselves included in these figures.

Ways and Means

The Ways and Means Department began the year with a serious handicap. General Secretary Frank H. Mann, who had organized and conducted this department, as it now exists, resigned in October, 1924. The loss of Mr. Mann, with his unusual ability as an executive and his familiarity with the work of the de-

partment, was a serious blow, not only to the Ways and Means Department, but to the Society as a whole. Fortunately, however, his location in business in New York City made it possible for him to render very valuable assistance and advice as a member of the Board of Managers, chairman of the Finance Committee, and a member of the Ways and Means Committee. Mr. Mann's advice and counsel have been of great value to his successor, who has endeavored, since his election to the office in February, 1925, to carry out the work of the department in keeping with the plans and policies which had proved valuable in the past.

The Ways and Means Department is responsible for promoting the interests of the Society with special reference to the raising of funds for its use. This involves publicity and appeals to churches and individuals. Despite its one hundred and ten years of faithful and efficient work, publicity for the Society is continually needed. How shall we reach and interest an increasingly large number of our Christian people in the work of translating, publishing and distributing the Word of God "without note or comment" and without profit? That is our constant problem.

Publicity

The printed page is our best medium for reaching the Society's immediate constituency.

Leaflets—A series of leaflets and pamphlets giving information about some phase of the Society's work is kept in stock for enclosures in letters, for use in churches, Sunday schools, young people's meetings, and other religious and public gatherings. Of these leaflets and pamphlets, 1,344,384 were sent out by the Ways and Means Department during 1925. The United Society of Christian Endeavor very generously gave the American Bible Society the privilege of circularizing their local leaders with a pamphlet entitled "Our Unfinished Task," to be used in connection with the

Prayer Meeting topic on May 31. Thirty-two thousand pamphlets were sent to local leaders of the Christian Endeavor Societies throughout the country. The World Service Commission of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the United Presbyterian Church in connection with their White Gift Campaign at the Christmas season also used special literature supplied them.

The Press—The Ways and Means Department tries to supply the religious press with news items and reports about the work of the American Bible Society and in this way keep the activities of the Society before the Christian people of the various denominations. During 1925 the Society's publicity material was given very generous treatment by the editors of the religious press.

Stereopticon—The Society has a stereopticon lecture entitled "Around the World with the American Bible Society." A set of slides with the printed lecture is kept at headquarters and at each of the Home Agency offices for use as requested.

Universal Bible Sunday—Universal Bible Sunday is being increasingly observed by the churches. Each year a sixteen-page pamphlet for use by pastors and group leaders is prepared by the Society as a part of its Bible Sunday literature. This pamphlet, a wall poster, a sample of a small leaflet for general distribution in the church or Sunday school, and a return post card for ordering quantities of the small leaflets are sent in a package to pastors and other religious leaders. During 1925 nearly eighty-five thousand sets of literature dealing with the topic of "The Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Publication of William Tyndale's Translation of the New Testament into English" were sent out for use on December 6. One thousand more requests for the small leaflets came in 1925 than in 1924. These requests represented forty-nine different denominations and called for nearly five hundred

WORKERS OF THE MEXICO AGENCY

Gathered at Pachuca, July, 1925, in the annual institute for training of colporteurs held by the Agency Secretary, the Rev. A. H. Mellen, who stands at the right of the little girl. The small boy in front is the son of a colporteur and already beginning to work in selling portions.



and fifty thousand leaflets. The policy of the Society in urging the observance of Universal Bible Sunday is not primarily to promote the Society's interests, but to urge the people to lay emphasis upon the place of the Bible in the life of the individual, the church, the state and the world. The slogan for Universal Bible Sunday is "Wanted: Not an Offering, but a Hearing; not a Collection, but a Presentation."

Advertising—In addition to all the indirect and partly free publicity which the Society secures, the Ways and Means Department carries a small amount of general paid advertising in various religious weeklies.

Churches—Receipts from the churches during 1925 were the lowest for five years. They were more than \$40,000 lower than in 1924, and more than \$60,000 lower than in 1921. Part of this decrease may be explained by the same conditions that explain the general decrease in receipts of many of the denominational boards. Another explanation for this decrease is found in the fact that, during 1924, the Japanese earthquake appeal stirred many churches to contribute to the earthquake rehabilitation fund. The churches, as a whole, are interested in the American Bible Society program, and denominational leaders as well as local pastors agree that the Society's work must stand in the forefront of causes to be supported.

Two additional leading denominations took action placing the American Bible Society among their benevolent causes for a definite sum of money. This brings to twenty-six the number of denominations which definitely co-operate with the American Bible Society through some form of financial support. At the Advisory Council meeting in December, the following resolutions expressing the unanimous opinion of members of the Council were adopted:

Resolved

That, after the full presentation by the Secretaries and Treasurer of the work of the American Bible Society during the past year, in the production and distribution of the Scriptures; also a presentation of the needs of the ten Home Agencies and twelve Foreign Agencies for 1926;

The Advisory Council desires to go on record that it believes that the work of the Society is most efficiently carried on, and that the income is carefully administered, and

Resolved

That, in view of the facts presented, we urge our respective denominations to become better acquainted with the American Bible Society, and to make more liberal contributions to this great organization for the production and distribution of the Holy Scriptures.

The total income from churches for 1925 was \$220,101.39.

Below is a list of the denominations contributing five hundred dollars or more to the work of the Society during 1925:

Adventist (Seventh-day).....	net	\$2,001.35
Baptist (Northern)	"	646.84
Brethren	"	852.68
Congregationalists	"	2,522.87
Disciples	"	796.89
Lutheran (Augustana Synod).....	"	1,088.16
Lutheran (Free Church and Norwegian).....	"	2,094.90
Lutheran (United).....	"	2,269.02
Methodist Episcopal.....	"	77,159.39
Methodist Episcopal (South).....	"	31,482.04
Methodist Episcopal (African).....	"	2,435.01
Methodist Episcopal Zion (African).....	"	1,224.69
Methodist Protestant	"	970.95
Moravians	"	1,032.78
Presbyterian (U. S. A.).....	gross*	46,137.19
Presbyterian (U. S.).....	"	19,449.22
Presbyterian (Covenant).....	net	1,445.47
Presbyterian (United).....	gross*	12,618.83
Reformed (Christian).....	net	1,835.37
Reformed (in America).....	gross*	4,592.43
Reformed (in U. S.).....	net	2,225.32
United Brethren	"	1,078.41

Individual Gifts—The income from individuals shows an increase of \$36,352.90 over 1924. The total receipts from this source for 1925 were \$161,180.88. Included in this amount are two special gifts. One was for \$10,000 and the other for \$5,500. The large and increasing number of friends of the Society constitutes one of its main sources of strength.

Finances

In accordance with the policy established in 1925, the statement of income and expense under the budget is presented herewith. The year 1925 was the fifth year in which the Society operated under a budget. This budget is planned at the end of October—two full months before the beginning of the year to which it applies. Whereas in 1924 the excess of expense over income amounted to \$6,742.50, in 1925 there was an excess of income over expense of a little larger amount—as follows:

Total receipts for the year under the budget amounted to	\$1,036,128.80
Total expenses under the budget for the year amounted to	1,028,660.26
This resulted in an excess of income over expenses of	7,468.54

These figures for income and expense under the budget do not include all the income and expenses of the Foreign Agencies. They do include the appropriations to the Foreign Agencies, but not the amounts received by them from gifts and the sales of books on the field. Figures covering these items are considered by the Budget Committee, but they are not included in the above budget, as such items are retained on the field as additions to the appropriations, and do not pass through the main treasury of the Society.

*For the denominations marked "gross" the Society returns part of the amount received for expenses of the denominational headquarters in connection with their central collecting agency.

Budget

A study of the budget* for the five years it has been in operation will show how carefully it has been prepared. The total estimated income during that period has been only 1.2 per cent more than the amount actually received; whereas the amount expended has been 4/10 of 1 per cent less than the estimated expenses.

Reserve Funds

The income from legacies during 1925 is entered under the budget as \$60,000. The full amount received was \$61,898.67. By action of the Board of Managers any amount over \$60,000 is added to the legacy equalization fund; and any amount less than \$60,000 is made good from the same legacy equalization fund. The need for such a fund is obvious, when it is noted that, in 1919, 1921 and 1922, receipts from legacies were well under \$60,000. It would be impossible to stabilize the income from legacies without such a fund.

The annuity reserve account takes care of the excess of income paid to the annuitants above the amount received from the securities held; and also the expenses for administering the Department of Annuities.

Publication

Perhaps the fairest test of the policy of discontinuing manufacturing in the Bible House is a study of the catalogue price of the Society's Scriptures. Taking the most active books of five different classes, the catalogue prices of 1921 and of 1925 are as follows:

	No. of Books	Price 1921	Price 1925
Standard English books.....	38	\$51.11	\$46.69
Foreign books	12	8.37	8.97
Little active stock—English and foreign	28	115.80	105.87
<i>Imported Scriptures</i>			
Imported foreign books	57	91.37	101.20
Foreign Agencies	39	61.77	69.40

The first three classes were published in the Bible House and are now published elsewhere in the United States. In each of these a reduction in catalogue price is shown, with the exception of the 12 foreign language books. It was customary, in 1921, to price these foreign books at the same figure as the English books. Today it is the policy of the Society to charge these books at cost; so that, if the price is higher than that at which they can be imported, this is at once apparent. Reduction in the cost of books manufactured in the United States is the more interesting inasmuch as labor costs have risen each year since 1921. Whereas less than \$1 per hour was paid to pressmen in 1921, they are now receiving over \$1.20 an hour in

*Details of income and expenditures for the five years 1921-1925 are given in the full Report of the Board of Managers which will be sent on application.

New York City. Furthermore, in 1921 and 1922 the Society was operating its manufacturing program at a considerable loss, whereas at the present time the manufacturing budget is balanced.

New Books

A new 10-cent Testament in Nonpareil Bold-face type was brought out during the year. This book has been very well received. Later in the year the Psalms was added to it, the whole book on India paper bulking only 3/8 of an inch. This is the first time that the Society has had a New Testament and Psalms in such a small and readable type. This book sells for 70 cents in leather, flexible, round corners, red-under-gold edge; and for 80 cents, in leather circuit binding. For missionary purposes another edition of the Nonpareil 32mo Testament was produced on a cheap paper not free from ground wood. This book is wire-stitched with a kraft paper cover, and sells for 5 cents.

One-cent Portions

The whole New Testament in one-cent portions is now available in eleven volumes. The Gospel of John in Swedish and the Four Gospels and Book of Proverbs in Portuguese have also been added to the series. During the year 3,300,000 of these Scriptures were ordered. To commemorate the Centenary of the Independence of Uruguay, a special edition of 50,000 copies with the Uruguayan colors on the covers were produced in Spanish and distributed through the La Plata Agency.

New Plates

The need for new plates for the Society's standard books has been apparent for some time. As soon as the questions of spelling, punctuation and capitalization, which are before the Versions Committee, are settled, new English plates can be secured.

Due to the restriction of immigration, there is less demand for foreign Scriptures. It appears preferable, therefore, to import such books where they are available, as the Society would not be able to recover the cost of new plates, even over a period of many years, in most foreign languages. While requests have been received for certain types of books that are not now in existence, it has not been possible to meet all these needs within the present budget of the Society. This accounts for the Society's inability to supply a Portuguese pulpit Bible in either of the later versions, or to give to the Hawaiians a new small-sized Bible in the type and format that they prefer. Both of these requests, and also others, could be answered, however, if friends of the Society would contribute more generously.

Bible Society Record

The enlarged circulation of the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD reported last year has been continued. The average circulation has been over 26,000, and a total of 318,650 copies were issued during the year. Four issues were enlarged to 20 pages each—those for January, March, June and December; the remaining 8 each having 16 pages. The enlarged circulation served both our Publication, and Ways and Means Departments in bringing notices of their important features to a large number of people.

Other Publications

An enlarged edition of 2,500 copies of the *Annual Report*—a volume of 450 pages—was issued in the late fall, there having been very regrettable delay on the part of the printers; and 10,000 copies of the Board of Managers' Report, a brief summary of the activities of the previous year, were issued in the spring. Twenty-six different titles were published during the year. Fourteen were pamphlets giving information on the work of the Society or addresses on the Bible, the total of issues being 123,250. Of these 58,850 were copies of the address by William J. Bryan on the Bible, interest in the trial at Dayton, Tennessee, and the death of Mr. Bryan leading to an unusual demand for this pamphlet. Of old favorites, new editions of President Roosevelt's address on the Bible were published in Italian and Spanish; and President Wilson's address on the Bible, in English. Fresh printings of the pamphlets "Some Surprises," "Great Men on the Greatest Book," "The Angry Mob Quelled," "Constantinople to San Francisco," Vice-President Marshall's address on "The Place of the Bible in Our National Life," and "A Chinese Patriot" were published. Pamphlets brought out for the first time in 1925 included Dr. Howard A. Kelly's tribute to the Bible entitled "The Most Important Thing in My Life," Dr. Erwin H. Richards' vivid and entertaining address on "Setting the Bible Loose in Africa," and a biography of Dr. José Carlos Rodrigues, of Brazil, by the Rev. Dr. Hugh C. Tucker.

Of the material published by the Ways and Means Department, that for use in connection with Bible Sunday called for a total of 600,000 Tyndale leaflets and 100,000 Bible Sunday programs; while 260,000 of the popular leaflet "How to Use the Bible" and 250,000 of the leaflet "Our Unfinished Task" with 101,500 of the striking leaflet "The Only Way Out of the Dark" helped to swell the total issues of the 12 titles published for promotional purposes by the Ways and Means Department to 1,619,500.

Auxiliary Bible Societies

The year 1925 differs from some of its predecessors in that it witnessed additions to the list of Auxiliaries. Eight state and other Bible Societies, which for one reason or another were not on our list, were reinstated at their requests, making the total of Auxiliaries now 124.

Conclusion

The review of the one hundred and tenth year of the Society's Bible translation, publication, and distribution brings a deep sense of gratitude to God for his favors and blessings. The circulation of nearly ten million volumes of the Holy Scriptures in a single year is an accomplishment filled with immeasurable possibilities for good. Soul hungers have been satisfied, and new light and life have come to countless multitudes.

The accomplishments of the past, the great need and opportunity before us, the confidence in the host of friends of the Society and lovers of the Bible, and our faith in the help of God inspire us to press on in the hope of bringing in the day when "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the earth."

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

EDITORS *The Secretaries*

NEW YORK, JUNE, 1926

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Bible House, Astor Place, New York

"Listen in" on June 28

AN interview with General Secretary Ryan on "Bible Work in the Far East" is to be broadcast over Station WGBS on June 28, at 3 p. m. Any of our friends who use the radio may be interested to listen in. We will be glad to have comments on the result.

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Sample type page

EPHESIANS 1

17

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also, after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

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